Vidisha, Harda, Guna, Sagar, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Dhar, Ujjain, Mandsore and Neemach are affected with presence of fluoride in ground water.

Rural Water Supply is a State subject. State Government implement schemes/projects on rural drinking water supply from their own resources.

The Government of India supplements their efforts to overcome the water crisis by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). With effect from 01.04.1998, powers have been delegated to State Governments to plan, approve and implement projects under ARWSP. Upto 15% of ARWSP funds are to be earmarked by the State Governments for sanction of projects under Sub-Mission Programme for providing safe drinking water free from brackishness, fluorides, excess iron etc. State Government have been repeatedly requested to sanction more and more such projects to provide safe drinking water to the rural inhabitants.

As reported by the State Government, under Sub-Mission programme of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, work is in progress to provide safe drinking water from alternative sources and by treating the contaminated water to 1036 villages and 52 majras in the above districts at an approved cost of Rs. 8944.00 lakhs. The cost is shared by Government of India and the State Government on 75:25 ratio.

Between 1994—98, the Government of India had sanctioned five Sub-Mission Projects for providing safe drinking water to quality affected habitations of Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 7091.10 lakh, out of which Rs. 5318.31 lakh is the Government of India share. Out of the Government of India share, Rs. 2984.80 lakh has been released to the State Government so far.

Finalisation of Rural Development proposals according to prescribed norms

2952. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Members of Parliament are not involved while various project proposals of his/her constituency under PM's Gramin Sadak Yojana, are finalised by Zila Parishads violating the prescribed guidelines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to ensure finalisation of proposals according to prescribed guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) According to information made available by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, 45.81% of the value of proposals cleared under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the year 2001-02 pertained to the proposals of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Government have reiterated to the State Governments, through letters as well as in the Review Meetings held in September, 2002 that the project proposals ought to be prepared strictly according to the Guidelines of the Programme.

Release of food to Manipur

2953. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice released to Manipur under food for work programme during 2002-2003;

(b) the number of releases made with quantity of rice per release; and

(c) the work programme implemented for which food/rice was released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No foodgrains have been released to the State of Manipur under the Food for Work Programme.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Roads for tribal villages

2954. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many tribal villages in the country have been connected by road;

(b) how many tribal villages are yet to be connected by road;

(c) whether Government have any plan to construct new roads to the tribal villages;

(d) if so, when are they going to be connected; and

(e) the details of the plan in this regard for the next three years?